

May 29, 2008 - Special Town Council Meeting

At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Middletown Town Hall on Thursday, May 29, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Paul M. Rodrigues, Presiding

Vice Chair Shirley R. Mello

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

Councillor Robert J. Sylvia, Members Present

Councillor Barbara A. Barrow, Absent

Councillor Louis P. DiPalma

POSTED – May 27, 2008

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally

consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:

1. (Continued from Special Meeting May 15, 2008)

Public Hearing (Advertised)

Proposed amendments to the Middletown Town Charter

2. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Department Budgets – Final Review

3. Executive Session – Pursuant to the provisions of RIGL, Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4. and 42-46-5. (a) (2) potential litigation.

Said meeting will be held on Thursday, May 29, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Paul M. Rodrigues, President

Middletown Town Council

cc:

Town Council

School Department

Town Administrator

Senior Center

Town Solicitor

Police Dept.

Finance Director

Fire Dept.

Public Library

Public Works

Tax Assessor

Building Inspector

Town Planner

IT Director

Parks/Recreation

Town Engineer

Human Resource Director

This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Present, representing the Charter Review Committee, were Barbara A. VonVillas, Chair and members Virgel J. Blaschke, Elizabeth P. Bozyan, Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas, David P. Leys and William R. O'Connell.

1. (Continued from Special Meeting May 15, 2008)

Public Hearing (Advertised)

Proposed amendments to the Middletown Town Charter

Public Hearing was declared open.

Council President Rodrigues thanked the Charter Review Committee for all their hard work, time and effort.

Antone Viveiros, 110 Indian Hill Road, noted he previously presented the Council with eleven Charter changes and requests the Council to consider these changes when reviewing proposed charter changes to be placed on the November 2008 ballot.

On motion of Councillor Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to accept the Charter Changes submitted by Antone Viveiros for consideration.

David Lavine, 591 Indian Avenue, read the following letter to the Council entered here:

Councillors Sylvia and Silveira noted their support for all the Proposed Charter Amendments being placed on the November 2008 ballot for consideration by the voters.

William O'Connell, 18 Continental Drive, member of the Charter

Review Committee, noted he does not agree with party designation and thinks there should be a 2-year term.

Elizabeth Bozyan, 535 Indian Avenue, explained the process followed by the committee and noted she agrees with Mr. O'Connell.

Barbara VonVillas, 4 Ruth Street, Chair, Charter Review Committee, reviewed the process followed by the Charter Review Committee to complete their charge. Ms. VonVillas noted that currently, the school committee has a four-year term and is non-partisan. She strongly supports non-partisan elections and requests the Council to vote on these proposed amendments for the good of the Town.

Gladys Lavine, 591 Indian Avenue, does not support non-partisan elections.

Arakel Bozyan, 535 Indian Avenue, noted his support for party affiliation/structure.

There being no other persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, public hearing was declared closed.

It was the consensus to tentatively schedule a meeting June 17, 2008 at 6:00 PM to vote on the proposed charter changes to be included on the November 2008 ballot.

Council took a 10-minute recess.

2. Review of FY 2008 – 2009 proposed Department Budgets – Final Review

Council reviewed the following department budgets.

Revenues: Discussed an increase for excavation fees including water and gas excavation, an impact fee for sewer, increase the room fee for summer rentals and a one-time buyer impact fee.

Tax Assessor: The Town Administrator noted an increase in the revaluation line to fund the revaluation.

Town Administrator: Discussed were Town Wide Training and office supplies.

Town Solicitors: The Town Administrator noted the increase in legal fees follows the current trend.

Town Council: The Town Administrator explained the line item for Contracted Services is for videotaping and dues line item is for the Chamber of Commerce dues.

Support Services: Discussion center around Equipment Maintenance and General Office supplies.

Information Services: Council requested the amount of monies that will be used from the reserve fund for the new software system and what other items will be subsidized from the reserve fund.

Building Official: The discussion was on the department request that the current part-time Zoning Enforcement Officer position be increased to a full-time position.

On motion of Councillor Silveira, duly seconded, it was voted to keep the full-time position request in the budget, Councillors DiPalma, Silveira and Sylvia voted YES; Council President Rodrigues, Vice Chair Mello, Councillor Barrows and Councillor Santos voted NO to said motion; MOTION FAILED TO PASS.

Police: Discussion was centered around the current rate for Police car details and the possibility of increasing the rate.

Fire Department: Discussion was the purchase of new vehicles for the department.

Public Works: Discussed were traffic signs, paint and clothing allowance & uniform services.

Capital Improvement Budget – Public Works: Discussion centered around the purchase of a new dump truck, storm water improvement program and the pavement management program.

Refuse & Recycling: The Council reviewed the two options provided by the Town Administrator for the PAY-Throw program.

It was the consensus of the Council to support option number two.

Town Engineer: Discussed were office supplies, membership and dues.

Senior Center: Discussed was building maintenance.

Non-Dept. Specific:

Councillor Silveira recused himself from this discussion, due to a possible conflict of interest.

Councillor Santos recused herself from this discussion, due to a possible conflict of interest.

It was the consensus of the Council to fund the Civic appropriations as funded in the 2007-2008 budget.

Capital Support Services: It was the consensus of the Council to defer the Town Hall parking lot project to another time and not to fund a new car for the Building Officials office.

Parks & Recreation Budget: Discussion was concerning beach fees implemented in the proposed budget, not funding a lifeguard at Peabody beach, lifeguard salaries, and the increase in the Supplies and Maintenance line item.

Sewer Fund: Discussion was well users, vehicle maintenance and the Infrastructure project.

Council considered also the Planning budget, Town Clerk,

Canvassing, Probate Judge, Municipal Court Judge, Boards and Services, Library, Debt Service and Grants.

It was requested that the Town Clerk post a Budget Review meeting for Monday, June 2, 2008 at 6:00 PM.

3. Executive Session – Pursuant to the provisions of RIGL, Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4. and 42-46-5. (a) (2) potential litigation.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess this meeting at 9:50 P.M. and to reconvene in executive session.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconvene this meeting in open session at 10:01 P.M.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to seal the minutes of the executive session pursuant to Section 42-46-7. RIGL.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 10:02 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk